

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 051701
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /013 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:DBLAKEMORE:JCM
APPROVED BY EA/K - MR. RICH
EA/PHL - MR. BLEAKLEY
-----071002 011009Z /17
R 282229Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 051701

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, KS, AS

SUBJECT: UN COMMAND REAR ECHELON/JAPAN

FOLLOWING IS A REPEAT
QUOTE
R250611Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2247
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC HONOLULU
SECDEF WASHDC
UNCOMMAND REAR CP ZAMA JAPAN
CONFIDENTIAL 0628
CINCPAC ALSO FOR OPLAD
REF: STATE 14651 (DTG 190053Z JAN 78)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 051701

1. EMBASSY CANBERRA DID SOME INFORMAL CHECKING WITH SEVERAL SOURCES IN THE AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN OFFICE ABOUT THE LIKELIHOOD OF THE GOA AGREEING TO ASSIGN PERSONNEL TO THE UNC REAR ECHELON THIS SUMMER, AT THE END OF THE BRITISH ASSIGNMENTS.
2. WE WERE TOLD THAT GOA INTER-AGENCY POSITION PAPERS HAVE BEEN PREPARED, AND ARE BEING READIED FOR SUBMISSION

TO CABINET. IT HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED THAT MINISTERIAL APPROVAL FOR THE GOA POSITION MIGHT HAVE BEEN FORTH-COMING BY THE END OF JANUARY, BUT THE INTERVENING AUSTRALIAN ELECTIONS AND ABSENCE FROM CANBERRA OF SENIOR MINISTERS DURING THE MID-SUMMER RECESS HERE HAD HELD THINGS UP; DFA NOW BELIEVES DECISION UNLIKELY BEFORE MID-FEBRUARY. WE HAVE EXPLAINED THAT THE BRITISH ARE PRESSING FOR AN ANSWER BY THE END OF JANUARY, BUT FRANKLY DO NOT BELIEVE IT LIKELY THAT GOA WILL BE IN A POSITION TO DECIDE UNTIL AT LEAST FEBRUARY 15.

3. WE ADHERED SCRUPULOUSLY TO THE LETTER OF THE INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED IN REFTTEL; WE DID NOT MAKE A PITCH FOR OR AGAINST ASSIGNMENT OF AUSTRALIAN PERSONNEL BUT CONFINED OURSELVES TO INFORMAL INQUIRY ABOUT THE STATE OF PLAY ON THIS QUESTION. FROM NUANCES IN REPLIES FROM TWO DIFFERENT SOURCES IN DFA, WE GATHER THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE DISAGREEMENT AT WORKING LEVELS IN GOA AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THE ASSIGNMENTS SHOULD TAKE PLACE. AUSTRALIAN DOD APPARENTLY SUPPORTS THE ASSIGNMENT. THE KOREA DESK OFFICER/NORTH ASIA BUREAU TENDS TO REGARD THE ASSIGNMENTS AS A FUNCTION OF AUSTRALIA'S EVOLVING POLICY TOWARD KOREA. WE ARE QUITE CERTAIN THAT SECTION OF DFA HAS ADVISED AGAINST THE

ASSIGNMENTS. WE WERE TOLD BY THE KOREA DESK OFFICER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 051701

THAT HIS SECTION WAS NOT PERSUADED THAT THE ABSENCE OF OTHER-THAN-US TROOPS WOULD NECESSARILY RENDER THE UN-JAPAN SOFA NON-VIABLE; IN FACT, HIS SECTION DOESN'T BELIEVE THE ABSENCE OF ANY RPT ANY UNC TROOPS MEANS THE UN-JAPAN SOFA IS NON-VIABLE; IT "HASN'T BEEN PERSUASIVELY EXPLAINED TO US THAT THE UNC REAR ECHELON SERVES ANY PARTICULARLY USEFUL FUNCTION WHICH NEEDS TO BE MAINTAINED"; AND THAT SECTION OF DFA WONDERS WHETHER THE US ATTACHES ANY REAL STRATEGIC POLICY SIGNIFICANCE TO THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF THE UNC REAR ECHELON. WAS THE USG'S DESIRE THAT THE GOA CONTRIBUTE PERSONNEL TO THE UNC REAR ECHELON PREDICATED UPON OUR INTENTION TO "REVITALIZE" THE UNC STRUCTURE?

4. THE US DESK IN DFA, ON THE OTHER HAND, WAS PREPARED TO ACCEPT OUR OFFERING THAT THE US DESIRE TO CONTINUE THE PRESENCE OF THIRD COUNTRY TROOPS IN THE UNC REAR ECHELON WAS AT LEAST PARTIALLY A FUNCTION OF OUR NOT WISHING TO BE SEEN AS THE SOLE GUARANTOR OF THE PRESENT BALANCE OF POWER ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA; AND SECONDLY,

THAT THE UNWILLINGNESS OF OTHERS TO SHARE -- HOWEVER

MINIMALLY -- THE BURDENS OF THE UNC REAR ECHELON COULD BE PORTRAYED IN THE US AS GROUNDS FOR FURTHER PRESSURE ON THE USG TO CUT ITS INVOLVEMENT IN THE KOREAN AREA. WE STRESSED THAT THE ABOVE WERE NOT ARGUMENTS BEING PUT ON INSTRUCTION FROM WASHINGTON, BUT RATHER WERE SIMPLY PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS. THE USA DESK OFFICER AGREED THAT AUSTRALIA'S DECISION TO ASSIGN OR NOT ASSIGN PERSONNEL TO THE UNC REAR ECHELON SHOULD BE A FUNCTION OF SOMETHING SIMPLY LARGER THAN AUSTRALIA'S EVOLVING RELATIONS WITH THE TWO KOREAS.

5. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT GOA WILL PROBABLY BE RECEPTIVE TO A PITCH FOR THE ASSIGNMENT OF PERSONNEL TO UNC REAR ECHELON. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT UNLESS WE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 051701

MAKE SUCH A PITCH AT A RELATIVELY HIGH LEVEL IN CANBERRA, GOA MAY WELL DECIDE NOT TO ASSIGN PERSONNEL. ACCORDINGLY, IF DEPARTMENT WISHES US TO PUT FORTH A REQUEST TO THE GOA AT THIS END, PLEASE ADVISE, INCLUDING THE LINE OF ARGUMENT YOU WISH US TO USE. ALSTON
UNQUOTE VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, MILITARY PLANS, PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE051701
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DBLAKEMORE:JCM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780093-0654
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978022/aaaaabbn.tel
Line Count: 142
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 602308d1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 14651
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3495720
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UN COMMAND REAR ECHELON/JAPAN FOLLOWING IS A REPEAT QUOTE
TAGS: MARR, KS, AS
To: MANILA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/602308d1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014